

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a Request for Continued Examination. All claims in the original application were finally rejected on August 19, 2008. The present Amendment **amends** Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16, 20-25, 28 and 30, and **cancels** Claims 9, 17-19, 27 and 29. Upon entry of the presently presented amendments, Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16, 20-25, 28 and 30 will be pending.

REJECTIONS IN THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the August 19, 2008 final rejection, claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-24 and 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for using the term “flowing.” While Applicants believe that the term is clearly supported to describe resources that move through conduits, power lines, etc., in an effort to promote the present claims to allowance, this term has been removed. Thus, the rejections are moot.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 4 of the August 19, 2008 final Office Action, all previously pending claims (Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-25 and 27-30) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Metzger* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0186760 – “*Metzger*”) in view of *Tandon, et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0177470 – “*Tandon*”). In view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

With respect to **Claim 1**, a combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest “collecting and recording resource consumption at resource consumption sites, wherein the resource consumption is a consumption of electricity that is transmitted through a transmission system, and wherein the transmission system serves multiple types of electricity generation companies,” as supported in the original specification on page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 1, and on page 8, lines 13-14.

With respect to **Claim 7**, a combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest “wherein the multiple types of electricity generation companies include a coal fired company, a gas fired company, a hydroelectric company, and a wind turbine company,” as supported in the original specification on page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 1.

With respect to **Claims 8 and 28**, a combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest “automatically reconciling resource consumption records at feeder sub systems, nodes, interim nodes and billing subsystems that are located between the resource consumption sites and the target site,” as supported in the original present specification on page 12, lines 15-19.

With respect to **Claim 11**, a combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest “collecting and recording resource consumption at resource consumption sites, wherein the resource consumption is a consumption of gaseous hydrocarbons being transferred internally within an integrated petrochemical refinery,” as supported in the original specification on page 8, lines 15-20.

With respect to **Claim 21**, a combination of the cited art does not teach or suggest “collecting and recording resource consumption at flowing resource consumption sites, wherein the resource consumption is asphalt that is transferred internally within units of an integrated petroleum refinery,” as supported on page 8, lines 15-20 of the original present specification.

All other amendments are non-substantive grammatical changes.

CONCLUSION

Applicants now respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference would be beneficial to promoting the presently pending claims to allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at 512.306.0796 would be greatly appreciated.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 09-0457**.

Respectfully submitted,



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